

House Armed Services Committee

DEMOCRATS

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Ike Skelton, Ranking Member

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Contact:

Loren Dealy (HASC) 202-226-6339

Bill Caruso (Andrews) 202-225-6501

Ken Willis (Butterfield) 202-225-3101

Dems Expand Concurrent Receipt and TRICARE Coverage

Washington D.C.—Today the House Armed Services Committee considered the portion of H.R.1815, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, that falls under jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Concurrent Receipt

Rep. G.K. Butterfield (NC) successfully introduced an amendment that will allow veterans who have a disability rating below 100%, yet are still determined to be “unemployable” due to their disability, to begin receiving full concurrent receipt in 2009—five years earlier than they are currently scheduled to begin receiving these earned benefits.

“It has been a long-standing injustice for many veterans,” **Rep. Butterfield** explained. “This will help bring the issue to a close in a more timely manner. We have a responsibility to support the fighting men and women who put their lives on the line to protect our way of life. While many disabled veterans go on to enjoy productive lives, some are unable to because of the severity of their wounds.”

TRICARE for Reserve Component Personnel

Rep. Gene Taylor (MS) successfully offered an amendment that provides TRICARE to all Reserve component personnel on a permanent basis.

Rep. Taylor noted that, “The insurgents in Iraq don’t differentiate between reserve soldiers and active duty soldiers. Providing access to health insurance recognizes the sacrifices our Guard and Reserve troops are making every day. As long as our nation continues to use our reserve components in the same capacities as active duty troops, they deserve similar benefits for similar service.”

Information is not considered final until committee passage of H.R.1815

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